

# Rotor Loads Reduction by Dynamically Extendable Chord

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Dynamically extendable blade chord sections show promise for reducing helicopter rotor loads. A rotor model based on elastic beam concept, and capable to predict helicopter power, is utilized. A **stiff in-plane** four bladed rotor with the shape similar to the UH-60A rotor, is used as baseline for comparisons. For the control of the 4/rev vertical hub force, it is not beneficial to actuate the extendable chord at hover and low speed flight. At a high speed of 270km/h, the extendable chord, with a width of 10% rotor radius and responded to **an extension of 10%** chord length, obtained a maximum force reduction of 89.4%. The magnitude of the dynamic chord needs to be optimized according to the flight state. The performance can be enhanced by increasing the extension or width of the dynamic chord. The dynamically extendable chord was not suitable for reducing the 2/rev blade flapwise root bending moment. A 3/rev dynamic chord **extension** though showed great potential in reducing the 3/rev flapwise root bending moment and the 4/rev rotor rolling and pitching moments, simultaneously. The effectiveness of a 5/rev dynamic chord in reducing the 4/rev rotor rolling or pitching moment degraded significantly compared with a 3/rev **actuation**.

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## Nomenclature

$A$	=	amplitude, m
$c$	=	chord length, m
$C_d$	=	drag coefficient
$C_l$	=	lift coefficient
$C_m$	=	moment coefficient
$F$	=	force, N
$l$	=	length of chord extension, m
$m$	=	number of independent degrees
$M_a$	=	Mach number
$n$	=	harmonic number
$N_b$	=	number of blades
$q$	=	generalized coordinate
$r$	=	radial location, m
$R$	=	rotor radius, m
$U_e$	=	elastic potential energy, J
$V$	=	velocity of airflow, m/s
$w$	=	flapwise displacement, m
$\alpha$	=	angle of attack, rad
$\alpha_s$	=	<b>longitudinal tilt angle of rotor shaft, rad</b>
$\beta$	=	<b>Newmark integration parameter</b>
$\gamma$	=	<b>Newmark integration parameter</b>
$\delta$	=	deployment angle, rad
$\eta$	=	force/moment reduction
$\theta_0$	=	<b>collective pitch angle, rad</b>
$\theta_{1c}$	=	<b>lateral cyclic pitch angle, rad</b>
$\theta_{1s}$	=	<b>longitudinal cyclic pitch angle, rad</b>
$\rho$	=	air density, kg/m <sup>3</sup>

$\phi$  = lateral tilt angle of rotor shaft, rad

$\phi_s$  = phase, rad

$\psi$  = azimuth angle, rad

$\Omega$  = rotor speed, rad/s

## I.Introduction

Helicopters have a reputation for low ride quality due to high vibration and noise levels, primarily caused by the complex aerodynamic environment of the main rotor. To reduce fuselage vibration caused by the main rotor, three methods are used, (1) reduction of the vibratory loads generated by the main rotor, (2) isolation of the loads in the middle of the transfer path from the main rotor to the fuselage, (3) control of the high vibration at the fuselage using active or passive devices. Directly reducing the rotor loads can reduce the components **undergoing** the high vibratory input from the rotor, and this approach has so far received the interest of many researchers [1-5].

Several passive and active vibration control methods in controlling the blade or hub loads of helicopter rotors have so far been reported, such as the dynamic vibration absorber [1, 2], higher harmonic control [2-4], individual blade pitch control [3, 4], actively controlled trailing edge flaps [3-5], active twist rotor [4, 5], active composite box beam [6], deployable Gurney flaps [5, 7], embedded flapwise absorbers [8], and so on. For the control of the rotor loads in the same direction as the rotor thrust, an intuitive concept is that a portion of the thrust generated by the blades can be controlled to generate a harmonic force or moment to cancel the target load. One possible method is to change the chord length of some blade section.

Léon et al. investigated quasi-statically extendable chord sections to expand the envelope of the UH-60 helicopter [9], and the investigations showed promise. The analyses of extendable chord rotors for flight performance improvement by Khoshlahjeh and Gandhi indicated significant power reduction at high gross weight and altitude, and performance improvements at maximum speed, gross weight and altitude [10]. Kang et al. pointed out that the extendable blade chord had significant potential in reducing the rotor power, especially at high speed flight [11]. Han et al. explored the potential of the static (0/rev) and dynamic (1-4/rev) extendable chord in reducing the rotor power and improving flight performance [12]. Generally, a lower harmonic extendable chord could save more **rotor** power than one actuated at higher harmonics, and the dynamic chord could reduce the power further than the corresponding static chord extension. Past research, concentrated on the potential of statically and

Dynamically Extendable Chord (DEC) in improving the performance of helicopters. The question whether this concept has potential in reducing the vibratory loads of helicopter rotors is the topic of this paper.

As we all know, the non-uniform airflow passing through a rotor can excite oscillating airloads on the blades, which produce excitation forces and moments at the rotor hub. The rotor acts like a filter. For an ideal rotor with identical blades [1], the major excitations from the blades at the frequencies of  $(N_b-1)\Omega$ ,  $N_b\Omega$ ,  $(N_b+1)\Omega$ ,  $(2N_b-1)\Omega$ ,  $2N_b\Omega$ ,  $(2N_b+1)\Omega$ ,  $\dots$ , can be transmitted to the fixed frame (rotor hub, fuselage) at the frequencies of  $N_b\Omega$ ,  $2N_b\Omega$ ,  $\dots$ . The dynamically extendable chord can generate vertical blade root forces and blade flapwise root bending moments at the frequencies of  $\Omega$ ,  $2\Omega$ ,  $3\Omega$ ,  $\dots$ , which can be applied to control the vertical hub forces and rotor rolling and pitching moments at the frequencies of  $N_b\Omega$ ,  $2N_b\Omega$ ,  $\dots$ . For a four bladed rotor, the 4/rev DEC can therefore be used to reduce the 4/rev vertical hub force, and the 3/rev and 5/rev can be used to reduce the 4/rev rotor rolling and pitching moments. The present work focuses on the potential of dynamically extendable chord in controlling the loads of helicopter rotors. A helicopter model, which has already been used to analyze the improved helicopter rotor performance by the extendable chord [12], is used. Parametric analyses are conducted to enhance the potential of chord extension in reducing the loads.

## II. Modeling Method

### A. Rotor Loads

To evaluate the potential of the dynamically extendable chord in controlling the rotor loads, an aeroelastic model is used, consisting of a main rotor, fuselage, tail rotor and a propulsive trim method. The rotor model follows [13, 14], adopting a beam structural model, an airfoil aerodynamic model and an rotor induced velocity model. The employed elastic beam model allows for moderate deflections, and captures the **nonlinear coupling effects between deformations** of advanced helicopter blades. The rigid rotations associated with the blade hinges and the blade rotation about the rotor shaft are introduced as generalized coordinates. Look-up **airfoil** aerodynamics is used. The induced velocity over the rotor disk is captured by the Pitt-Peters inflow model [15]. Assembling the structural, kinetic, and aerodynamic terms yields the equations of motion based on the generalized force formulation [13]. The Newmark integration method **without numerical dissipation ( $\gamma = 0.5$ , and  $\beta = (\gamma + 0.5)^2/4$ )** is utilized to calculate the steady responses in the time domain [16]. The fuselage is treated as a rigid body with aerodynamic

forces and moments. The thrust of the tail rotor is determined by the main rotor torque divided by the distance from the hub center of the tail rotor to the main rotor shaft.

Given three initial pitch controls (collective and cyclic angles) and two rotor shaft attitude angles (longitudinal and lateral tilt shaft angles), the periodic response of the rotor can be obtained for a prescribed forward speed. The hub forces and moments of the main rotor are balanced by the forces and moments acting on the fuselage and tail rotor. The forces and moments on the fuselage are determined by the flight state and attitude angles. The thrust and power of the tail rotor is derived from the rotor torque and flight state. These component forces and moments constitute the equilibrium equations of the helicopter, which are solved to update the pitch controls and rotor attitude angles for the next iteration. **In the trim, the convergence state is defined as  $\sqrt{[(\Delta\theta_0)^2 + (\Delta\theta_{1c})^2 + (\Delta\theta_{1s})^2 + (\Delta\alpha_s)^2 + (\Delta\phi_s)^2]}/5 < 1.0 \times 10^{-5}$ . The symbol ' $\Delta$ ' means the difference between two adjacent integration steps.** After iterations of the periodic rotor responses, and solution of the equilibrium equations, the converged or trimmed pitch controls and rotor attitude angles can be obtained. Then the main rotor power and related information of the helicopter can be derived.

The hub forces and moments of the main rotor are derived from the resultant root forces and moments of the blades. Because the externally applied forces (including the centrifugal force and inertial force), are reacted by the structure, the root forces and moments are calculated using the generalized structural forces corresponding to the degrees of freedom. For example, the variation of the elastic potential energy can be expressed as

$$\delta U_e = \sum_{i=1}^m F_i \delta q_i \quad (1)$$

where,  $F_i$  is a generalized elastic force, and  $q_i$  is a generalized elastic degree **of freedom**. If the structural root force in the vertical direction is desired, the force is the generalized nodal force  $F_w$  corresponding to the flapwise displacement degree  $w$  at the blade root. **Because of the pitch controls, a transformation needs to be conducted to transfer the forces and moments from the blade rotating frame to the hub fixed frame.** The required harmonic components of the forces or moments can be calculated by integrating the time histories of the response, i.e.,

$$\begin{cases} (F_i)_0 = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} F_i(\psi) d\psi \\ (F_i)_{nc} = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} F_i(\psi) \cos(n\psi) d\psi \\ (F_i)_{ns} = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} F_i(\psi) \sin(n\psi) d\psi \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

where,  $c$  denotes the cosine component, and  $s$  denotes the sinusoidal component.

### B. Extendable Chord

An extendable chord can change the chord and airfoil camber according to a deployment schedule, as shown in Figure 1, and thus modifies the aerodynamic characteristics of the baseline airfoil. The classic thin airfoil theory gives an explicit expression of the lift coefficient of the symmetrical airfoil of NACA 0012 with an extended trailing edge [17], i.e. extendable chord, as

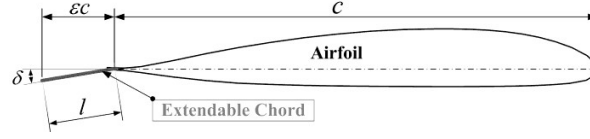
$$\bar{C}_l = 2\pi(1 + \varepsilon) \left[ \alpha + \tan \delta \left( 1 - \frac{\theta_c}{\pi} + \frac{\sin \theta_c}{\pi} \right) \right] \quad (3)$$

where,

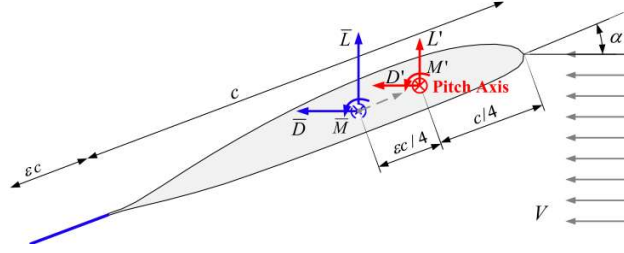
$$\theta_c = \cos^{-1}[(\varepsilon - 1)/(\varepsilon + 1)] \quad (4)$$

$$\varepsilon = l \cos \delta / c \quad (5)$$

where,  $\varepsilon$  represents the chord extension as a percentage of the baseline chord length  $c$ . With a deployment angle of  $0^\circ$ ,  $\bar{C}_l$  is proportional to  $\varepsilon$ . For the SC1094R8 cambered airfoil, the CFD method predicts the **deployment** angle to be  $2^\circ$  [10]. It is obvious that, with a suitable deployment angle, the aerodynamic characteristics of the airfoil with a chord extension can remain almost the same.



**Figure 1: Configuration of extendable Chord.**



**Figure 2: The resultant forces and moment at the pitch axis.**

In this work, we assume that the chord extension does not change the aerodynamic characteristics of the airfoils.  $\bar{()}$  denotes variables related to the airfoil with a chord extension. The lift, drag and moment coefficients  $\bar{C}_l$ ,  $\bar{C}_d$  and  $\bar{C}_m$  for an airfoil with an extendable chord are related with the baseline coefficients  $C_l$ ,  $C_d$  and  $C_m$  as [10]

$$\begin{cases} \bar{C}_l = (1 + \varepsilon)C_l \\ \bar{C}_d = (1 + \varepsilon)C_d \\ \bar{C}_m = (1 + \varepsilon)^2C_m \end{cases}$$

(6)

The effect of the chord extension is equivalent to an increase in the aerodynamic coefficients. Since the pitch axis of the blade locates at the 1/4 chord point of the baseline airfoil, as shown in Figure 2, the pitching moment acting on this point with the chord extension is

$$M' = \bar{M} - \bar{L} \frac{\varepsilon c}{4} \cos \alpha - \bar{D} \frac{\varepsilon c}{4} \sin \alpha$$

(7)

The coefficients at the 1/4 chord point of the baseline airfoil for the airfoil segment  $dr$  with a chord extension are

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} L' = \frac{1}{2} \rho V^2 c (1 + \varepsilon) C_l dr \\ D' = \frac{1}{2} \rho V^2 c (1 + \varepsilon) C_d dr \\ M' = \frac{1}{2} \rho V^2 c^2 \left[ (1 + \varepsilon)^2 C_m - \frac{(1 + \varepsilon) \varepsilon \cos \alpha}{4} C_l - \frac{(1 + \varepsilon) \varepsilon \sin \alpha}{4} C_d \right] dr \end{array} \right. \quad (8)$$

Look-up aerofoil aerodynamics is used to calculate the coefficients of  $C_l(\alpha, M_a)$ ,  $C_d(\alpha, M_a)$  and  $C_m(\alpha, M_a)$ , which are functions of angle of attack  $\alpha$  and Mach number  $M_a$ .

### III. Aeroelastic Analysis

This work focuses on the control of blade loads in the vertical or flapwise direction, and the corresponding harmonics transferred to the rotor hub. The DEC is explored to reduce harmonic blade and hub loads.

#### A. Baseline Rotor

A **stiff in-plane** four bladed rotor is used as the baseline rotor in the following analysis, which has the same aerodynamic shape as the UH-60A helicopter rotor [18-20]. The rotor blades have uniform distribution of structural properties. The parameters of the rotor system are listed in Table 1. The fundamental flapwise, lagwise and torsional frequencies at the nominal rotor speed are 1.15/rev, 1.49/rev and 7.57/rev, respectively. The baseline flight state is for sea level and take-off weight of 9474.7kg (corresponding weight coefficient 0.0074).

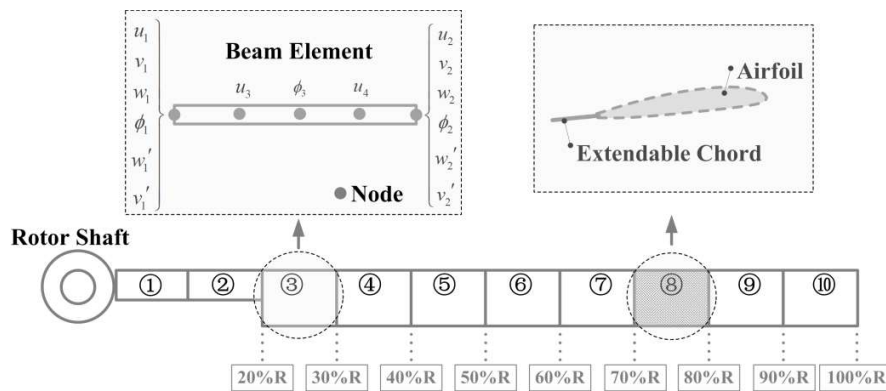


Figure 3: Configuration of extendable chord.



**Table 1: Main rotor parameters.**

Parameter	Value
Main Rotor Radius	8.18m
Main Rotor Speed (100%)	27.0 rad/s
Blade Chord Length	0.527m
Blade Twist	Nonlinear
Blade Airfoil	SC1095/SC1094R8
Number of Blades	4
Blade Mass per Unit Length	13.9 kg/m
Longitudinal Shaft Tilt	3°

In the following analyses, the extendable chords with 10%R as the width are investigated, as shown in Figure 3. The start points of the locations are 20.0%R, 30.0%R, ..., and 90.0%R (Locations 3, 4, ..., and 10), respectively. The length of the extendable chord varies by a prescribed harmonic motion

$$\varepsilon = A[1.0 + \sin(n\Omega t + \phi)] \quad (9)$$

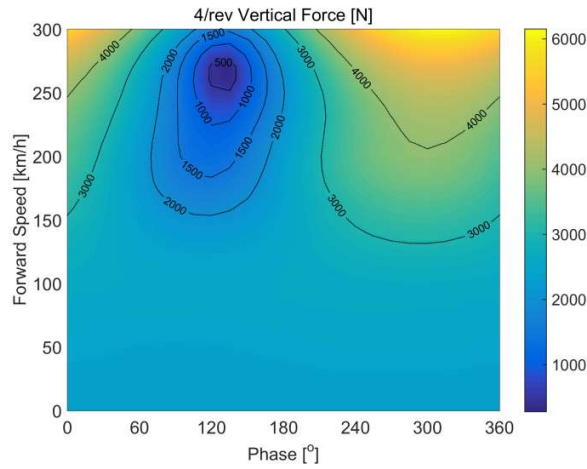
To determine the best performance of the DEC, a parameter sweep with 15° increments of the input phase at a prescribed forward flight speed is conducted.

A force or moment reduction ratio is defined to determine the benefits in loads control as:

$$\eta = (1 - F/F_b) \times 100\% \quad (10)$$

where,  $F$  is the force or moment with the extendable chord and  $F_b$  is the baseline force or moment to be reduced without any extendable chord.

#### **B. 4/rev Vertical Hub Force**

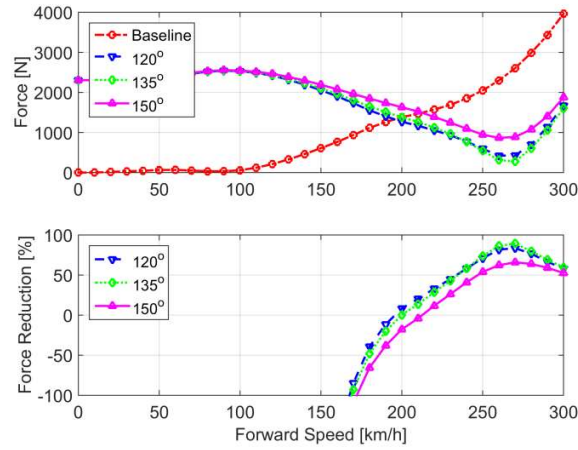


**Figure 4: The 4/rev vertical force for different forward speed and input phase ( $C_w = 0.0074$ ).**

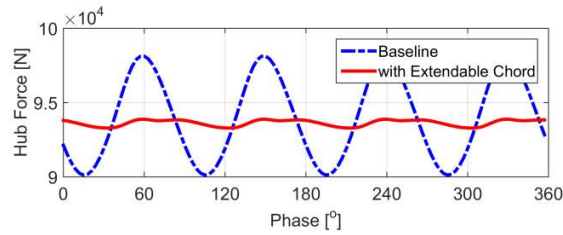
To reduce the 4/rev vertical hub force, the DEC is tuned to 4/rev. Figure 4 shows the 4/rev vertical hub force with the forward speed and the phase of the DEC. The DEC is deployed at Location 6 (see Figure 3) and the magnitude of the DEC is 10% $c$ . At hover and low speed flight, the 4/rev force increases significantly compared with the baseline force, but the changes remain substantially small with increasing phase. At these speeds, the DEC increases the load, and it is not necessary to actuate the DEC. At medium to high forward speeds, the 4/rev force changes significantly with the phase. At a speed of 270km/h and phase of 135°, a minimum of the 4/rev force appears. It is obvious that the DEC works well, and it can be used to control the 4/rev vertical hub force. With increasing speed, the large variation of the force with the phase remains. **It can thus be inferred that the maximum force reduction can be obtained at high-speed flight, which is named as critical speed. If the forward speed is larger than this speed, the force reduction decreases.**

Figure 5 compares the 4/rev vertical hub forces and the corresponding reductions with the baseline for the deployed phases of 120°, 135° and 150°, respectively. The DEC is deployed at Location 6. The baseline force increases with the forward speed, and is rather small at low speeds. The DEC generates excessive force to counteract the baseline force at hover and low speed flight, which leads to an increase in the resultant 4/rev force. It is natural that the force reduction is negative in the figure, and changes to a positive value at a speed larger than 210km/h. At a critical speed (corresponding to the maximum reduction) of 270km/h and phase of 135°, the maximum reduction of 89.4% can be obtained, and then it decreases with the speed. At high speeds, the force reduction decreases, and it changes to 59.5% at a speed of 300km/h and phase of 135°. The performance degrades significantly. **The phase has**

**distinct influence on the force reduction.** At a phase of  $150^\circ$  and speed of 270km/h, the force reduction changes to 65.9%. A **phase shift** of  $135^\circ$  can degrade the performance of the DEC.



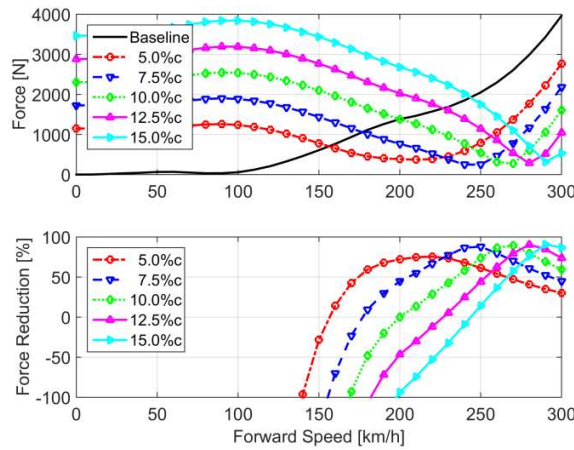
**Figure 5: The Vertical force and corresponding reduction for different phase.**



**Figure 6: The steady responses of vertical hub force.**

From the previous analyses, it is obvious that the DEC is like a force generator, which can generate a harmonic force **following the prescribed harmonic input**. The resultant of the **controlled** force with the target harmonic load determines the effect of the DEC. If the DEC generates much larger force than the baseline value, the resultant force can be much large even at hover and low speed flight. It is therefore **detrimental** to activate the DEC. If the force generated by the DEC just counteracts the baseline, the maximum reduction can be obtained. If it is smaller than the baseline, only part of the force is reduced. It is highly necessary to match the force generated by the DEC with the baseline force following the flight state.

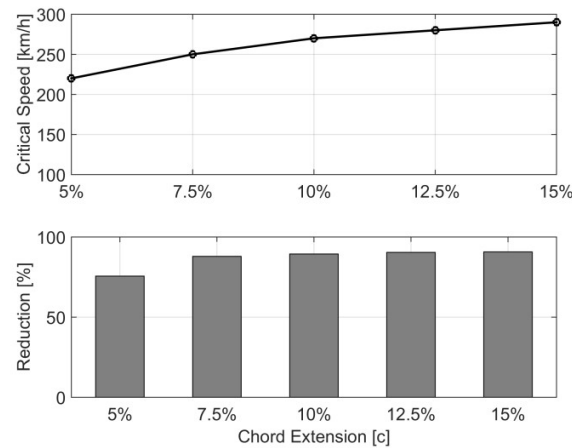
Figure 6 shows the steady responses, at a speed of 270km/h, of the baseline vertical hub force and the force with the DEC (Location 6 and phase of 135°). The figure clearly shows the typical characteristics of the 4 peaks for the four bladed rotor. With the DEC, the magnitude of the 4/rev component decreases by 89.4%. It is expected that, with a suitable combination of the input phase, chord extension and/or chord width, more vertical hub force can be reduced.



**Figure 7: The force reduction for different magnitudes of chord extension.**

Figure 7 shows the effect of the magnitude of the 4/rev DEC at Location 6, on the 4/rev vertical hub force and the corresponding force reduction. The phase of the DEC is adjusted to 135°. At hover and low speeds, the force increases. The longer the chord extends, the larger the force becomes. With increasing speed, the force increases slightly, and then decreases. At the critical speed, the maximum force reduction can be obtained. This critical speed increases with the chord extension, which is due to the larger force generated by the longer extension, as shown in Figure 8. With an extension of 15%c, the critical speed is 290km/h and the corresponding force reduction of 90.7% is obtained. If the flight speed is faster than the critical, the reduction decreases. At 300km/h, the force reductions for the five cases are 30.1%, 44.9%, 59.5%, 73.7%, and 86.7%, respectively. The performance degrades significantly, and it is necessary to optimize the amplitude of the chord extension following the change of flight state. To achieve best performance at a high speed, a larger chord extension can be adopted. However, larger dynamic chord extension can generate larger torsional excitation moment, which can cause high loads in other directions, and even

leads to instability. It should be noted that the magnitude of 15%c is a large value, and the corresponding maximum chord extension is up to 30%c. The structural realization may be difficult.



**Figure 8: The critical speeds and corresponding force reductions for different chord extension.**

**Table 2: Effect of DEC location on 4/rev vertical hub force.**

Location	Maximum Force Reduction	Critical Speed (km/h)	Best Phase (degree)
30-40%R	94.4%	200	105
40-50%R	94.1%	250	120
50-60%R	89.4%	270	135
60-70%R	92.7%	260	135
70-80%R	93.6%	220	120
80-90%R	93.7%	140	90

Table 2 shows the effect of the deployment location of the 4/rev DEC on the maximum 4/rev force reduction, critical speed and corresponding best phase for maximum force reduction. For different locations, the maximum **force reduction almost remains** constant and is about 90%. The critical speed decreases drastically, when the DEC approaches the blade root or blade tip, since the blade sections at these locations generate less lift than at the middle to outboard part. It is therefore recommended to deploy the DEC at the location from 40%R to 70%R.

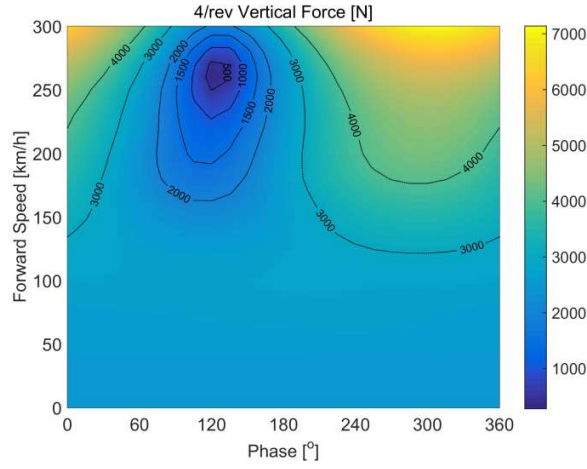


Figure 9: The 4/rev vertical force for different forward speed and input phase ( $C_W = 0.0083$ ).

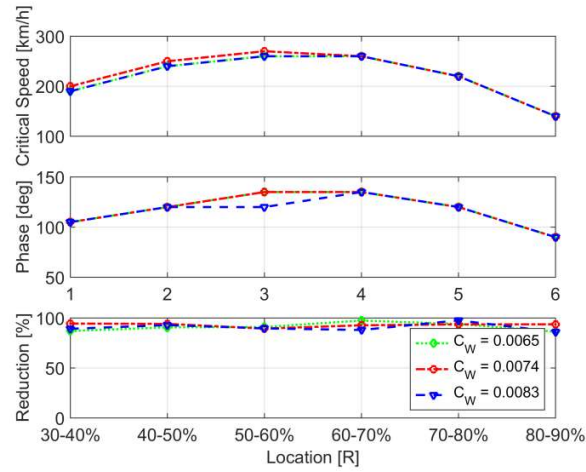
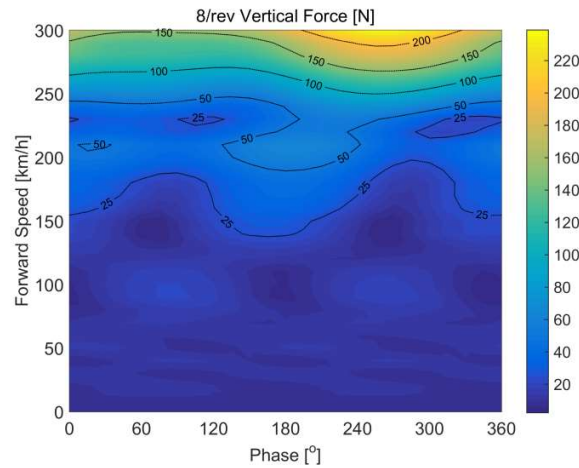


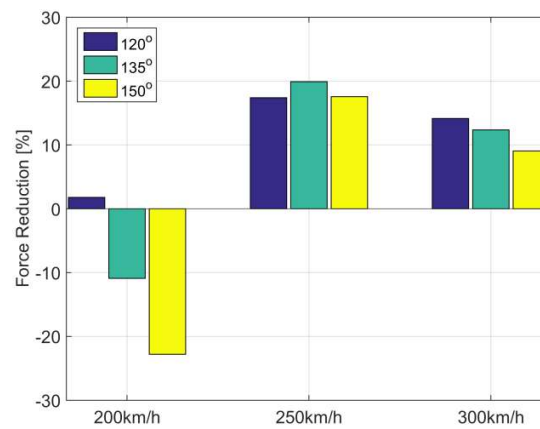
Figure 10: The performance of the DEC for different take-off weights.

Figure 9 shows the 4/rev vertical hub force with the forward speed and the phase of the DEC at a **larger** weight coefficient of 0.0083. The DEC is deployed at Location 6 and with 10% extension. The effects of the forward speed and the phase on the force reduction are similar as in Figure 4. The critical speed is 260km/h and the corresponding phase is 120°, which are very close to the values at the weight coefficient of 0.0074. Figure 10 shows the effect of the deployment location on the critical speed, corresponding phase and force reduction for the coefficients of 0.0065, 0.0074 and 0.0083, respectively. It is obvious that increasing or decreasing the take-off weight has substantially small influence on the performance of the DEC. **The change of the take-off weight means**

the change of the lift on the blades, and simultaneously, the lift acting on the dynamic chord increase or decrease proportionally. Naturally, the force reduction has substantially small variation.



**Figure 11: The 8/rev vertical force for different forward speed and input phase.**



**Figure 12: The 8/rev force reduction for different speeds and phases.**

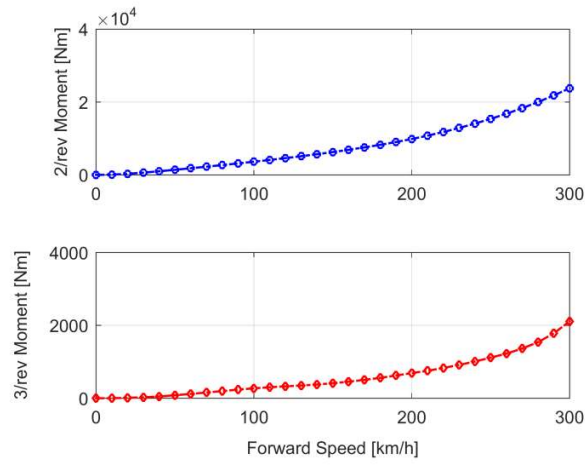
Figure 11 shows the effect of the 4/rev DEC on the 8/rev vertical hub force. The DEC is deployed at Location 6 and with 10% extension. At hover and low speed flight, the 8/rev force is small and the effect is relatively small. At high speed flight, the fluctuation of the force with the phase becomes larger, indicating that the 4/rev DEC affects the 8/rev harmonic force. Figure 12 shows the 8/rev force reduction for the three typical phases and speeds. At a

high speed of 300km/h and phase of 135°, the 4/rev DEC can reduce the 8/rev force by 12.4%. The 8/rev vertical hub force can be reduced simultaneously, but the magnitude is relatively small. Considering the much small magnitude of the 8/rev force compared with the 4/rev, the effect of the 4/rev DEC on the 8/rev vertical hub force is negligible.

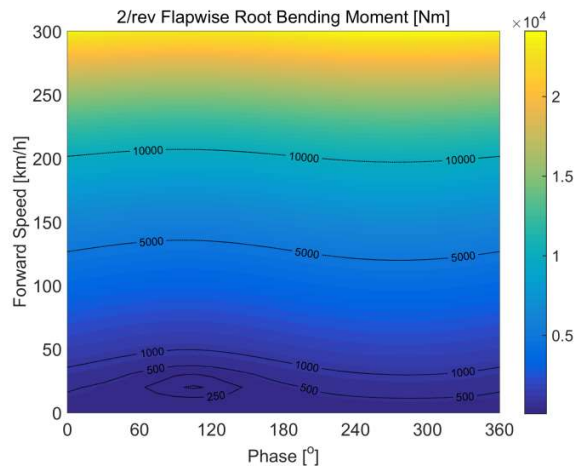
### C. 2/rev and 3/rev Blade Flapwise Root Bending Moment

**The 2/rev and 3/rev blade flapwise root bending moments without the DEC (baseline) are shown in Figure 13.** Figure 14 shows the effect of the 2/rev DEC at Location 6, on the 2/rev flapwise root bending moment. The magnitude of the dynamic chord is 10%c. At a critical speed of 20km/h and phase of 105°, the bending moment is reduced by 74.3%. With increasing the speed, the performance degrades significantly. At a speed of 100km/h and phase of 105°, the moment is reduced by 11.7%. **The critical speed is too low, which indicates that the DEC does not effectively control this 2/rev flapwise root bending moment.** Table 3 shows the effect of the 2/rev DEC location on the 2/rev moment reduction. The critical speed is rather small and changes substantially small with the location. The DEC is rather poor for controlling this harmonic flapwise root bending moment. The phase of deployment shows a drastic change, when the DEC approaches the blade tip. In this case, 1% of the blade area is utilized ( $10\%c \times 10\%R$ ), which only affects a small part of the blade lift. Increasing the width and/or the magnitude of the dynamic chord can reduce the 2/rev flapwise moment more. But this happens at a speed of 20km/h, which is too low. Larger chord width and chord extension may cause severe problems, such as high torsional loads, stability issues, and so on. In addition, the large lower harmonic flapwise loads **to be reduced** are also an important factor. It can be concluded that the DEC is not suitable for the reduction of the 2/rev flapwise root bending moment.





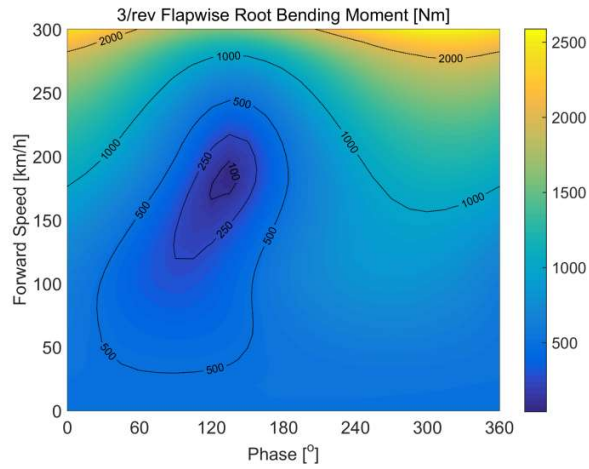
**Figure 13: The 2/rev and 3/rev flapwise root bending moments without the DEC.**



**Figure 14: The 2/rev flapwise root bending moment for different forward speed and input phase.**

**Table 3: Effect of DEC location on 2/rev flapwise root bending moment.**

Location	Maximum <b>Moment</b> Reduction	Critical Speed (km/h)	Best Phase (degree)
30-40%R	52.5%	20	105
40-50%R	88.4%	20	105
50-60%R	74.3%	20	105
60-70%R	73.7%	20	105
70-80%R	94.2%	20	90
80-90%R	61.3%	10	45

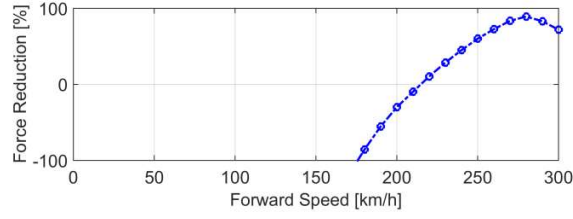


**Figure 15: The 3/rev flapwise bending moment for different forward speed and input phase.**

**Table 4: Effect of DEC location on 3/rev flapwise root bending moment.**

Location	Maximum <b>Moment</b> Reduction	Critical Speed (km/h)	Best Phase (degree)
30-40%R	95.7%	110	90
40-50%R	94.3%	160	120
50-60%R	92.6%	180	135
60-70%R	88.0%	180	135
70-80%R	86.4%	140	105
80-90%R	92.3%	50	45

Figure 15 shows the effect of the 3/rev DEC at Location 6 on the 3/rev blade flapwise root bending moment. The magnitude of the dynamic chord is 10%c. At a critical speed of 180km/h and phase of 135°, the bending moment is reduced by 92.6%. Increasing the speed, the moment reduction decreases. At a speed of 250km/h and phase of 135°, the moment is reduced by 49.0%. At a high speed, it can reduce part of the baseline. Table 4 shows the effect of the 3/rev DEC location on the 3/rev moment reduction. The critical speed decreases, as the DEC approaches the blade root. Near the blade tip, the critical speed degrades significantly. **It is obvious that much less lift is generated at the blade root or tip, which leads to the degradation of the performance of the DEC at these locations.** It is not suitable to deploy the DEC near the blade root or tip.



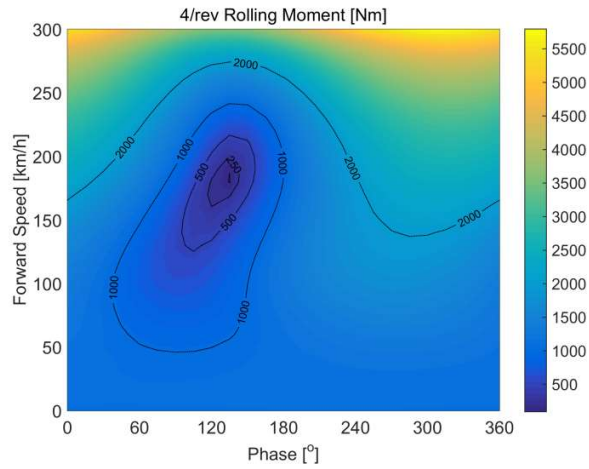
**Figure 16: The force reduction for a larger chord width and length extension.**

To enhance the ability in reducing the 3/rev flapwise root bending moment, a suitable means is to increase the width and magnitude of the dynamic chord. Figure 16 shows the effect of the 3/rev DEC at Locations 6 and 7 on the 3/rev bending moment for 15%*c* extension. The phase of the input is set to 135°. At a critical speed of 280km/h, the moment is reduced by 89.2%. At a speed of 300km/h, the ratio changes to 72.0%, which is still a large reduction. Increasing the width and magnitude of the DEC is an effective means to generate enough **root bending moment** in controlling the 3/rev moment. Too large width and magnitude may be not realistic. It is obvious that this concept has great potential in reducing the 3/rev flapwise root bending moment.

#### **D. 4/rev Rotor Rolling and Pitching Moment**

The 4/rev ( $N_b\Omega$ ) rotor rolling or pitching moment originates from the 3/rev ( $(N_b-1)\Omega$ ) and 5/rev ( $(N_b+1)\Omega$ ) blade flapwise root bending moments. The 3/rev or 5/rev DEC is investigated to reduce these 4/rev moments.

Figure 17 shows the effect of the 3/rev DEC at Location 6 on the 4/rev rotor rolling moment. Again 10%*c* extension is used. At a critical speed of 180km/h and phase of 135°, the moment is reduced by 92.3%. **When the forward speed is larger than the critical speed**, the moment reduction drops. At speeds of 250km/h and 300km/h, the **values change** to 49.7% and 25.5%. Table 5 shows the effect of the deployment location on the rolling moment reduction. Compared with Table 4, the moment reductions have small difference, but the critical speeds and corresponding phases are almost identical, except near the blade tip. Since the 3/rev blade **flapwise** bending moment contributes to the 4/rev rotor rolling moment, the reduction of the 3/rev bending moment means the simultaneous reduction of the 4/rev rolling moment. Naturally, the disciplines of the moment reductions are identical. It is obvious that it is not suitable to deploy the DEC near the blade root or tip.



**Figure 17: The effect of the 3/rev DEC on the 4/rev roll moment.**

**Table 5: Effect of 3/rev DEC location on 4/rev rotor rolling moment.**

Location	Maximum <b>Moment</b> Reduction	Critical Speed (km/h)	Best Phase (degree)
30-40%R	99.7%	110	90
40-50%R	96.1%	160	120
50-60%R	92.3%	180	135
60-70%R	91.2%	180	135
70-80%R	99.4%	130	105
80-90%R	88.0%	60	120

Table 6 shows the effect of the deployment location on the 4/rev pitching moment. Compared with Tables 4 and 5, the critical **speeds** and corresponding **phases** are almost identical, and the change of the moment reduction is substantially small. Since the 4/rev rotor rolling and pitching moments originate from the 3/rev and 5/rev flapwise root bending moments, the reduction of the 3/rev flapwise root bending moment also means the reductions of the 4/rev rolling and pitching moments. Since the mechanism of the 3/rev flapwise bending moment transferring to the 4/rev rolling moment is identical to the 4/rev rotor pitching moment, the conclusions drawn from the analysis of the reduction of the 4/rev rolling moment can be applied to the 4/rev pitching moment.

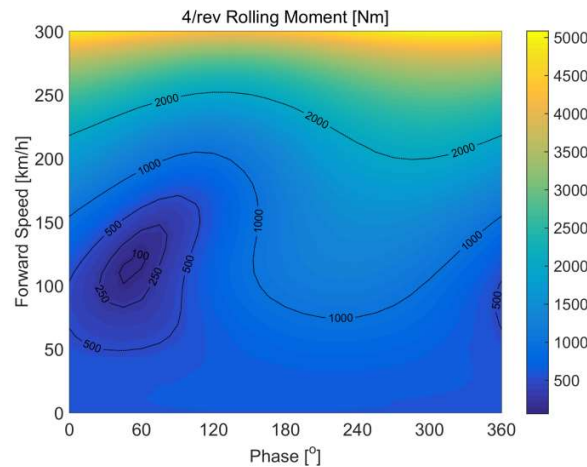
**Table 6: Effect of 3/rev DEC location on 4/rev rotor pitching moment.**

Location	Maximum <b>Moment</b> Reduction	Critical Speed (km/h)	Best Phase (degree)
30-40%R	93.8%	110	90
40-50%R	93.4%	170	135

50-60%R	92.3%	180	135
60-70%R	94.1%	170	135
70-80%R	85.8%	130	105
80-90%R	87.2%	60	105

Figure 18 shows the effect of the 5/rev DEC at Location 6 on the 4/rev rotor rolling moment. The magnitude of the dynamic chord is 10%c. At a critical speed of 120km/h and phase of 60°, the moment is reduced by 90.2%. The critical speed is much smaller than that in Figure 17 for the same deployment location and magnitude of chord extension. It is obvious that the performance achieved by the 5/rev input is not as good as the 3/rev. **When the forward speed is larger than the critical speed**, the moment reduction decreases. At a speed of 200km/h or 300km/h, the ratios changes to 20.9% **or** 3.59%.

Table 7 shows the effect of the deployment location of the 5/rev DEC on the 4/rev rolling moment reduction. The moment reduction decreases significantly near the blade root or blade tip. At the medium to outboard part, better performance can be achieved. Compared with Table 5, it is obvious that the critical speed is generally much smaller than that for the 3/rev to reduce the 4/rev rolling moment. It is better to use the 3/rev DEC to reduce the 4/rev rotor rolling moment.

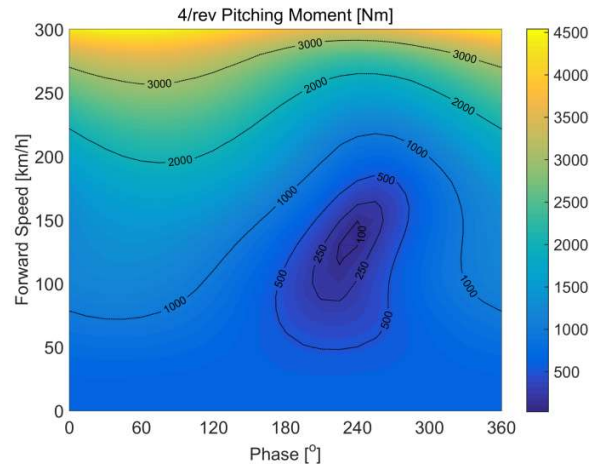


**Figure 18: The effect of the 5/rev DEC on the 4/rev rolling moment.**

**Table 7: Effect of 5/rev DEC location on 4/rev rotor rolling moment.**

Location	Maximum <b>Moment</b> Reduction	Critical Speed (km/h)	Best Phase (degree)
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30-40%R	91.2%	50	15
40-50%R	94.1%	80	30
50-60%R	90.2%	120	60
60-70%R	93.9%	120	60
70-80%R	87.4%	90	60
80-90%R	86.5%	70	120



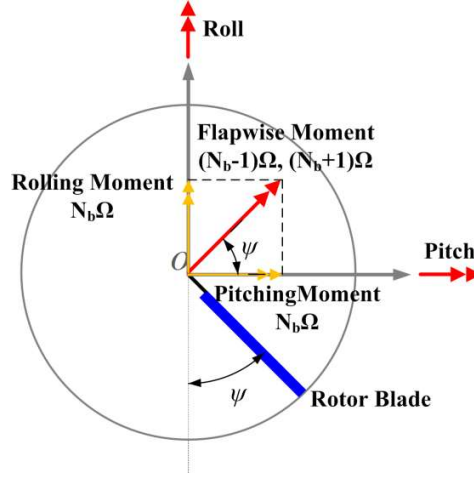
**Figure 19: The effect of the 5/rev DEC on the 4/rev pitching moment.**

**Table 8: Effect of 5/rev DEC location on 4/rev rotor pitching moment.**

Location	Maximum <b>Moment</b> Reduction	Critical Speed (km/h)	Best Phase (degree)
30-40%R	91.0%	50	195
40-50%R	95.4%	80	210
50-60%R	87.4%	120	225
60-70%R	91.2%	140	240
70-80%R	96.0%	100	240
80-90%R	81.4%	60	300

Figure 19 show the effect of the 5/rev DEC at Location 6 on the 4/rev rotor pitching moment. The magnitude of the dynamic chord is 10%c. At a critical speed of 120km/h and phase of 225°, the moment is reduced by 87.4%. The 5/rev DEC has the equivalent capability in reducing the 4/rev rotor pitching moment as reducing the 4/rev rotor rolling moment.

Table 8 shows the effect of the deployment location of the 5/rev DEC on the 4/rev rotor pitching moment. The performance also degrades near the blade root or blade tip. Compared with Table 7, the critical speed changes substantially small, which shows the 5/rev DEC has similar capability in reducing the 4/rev rolling or pitching moment.



**Figure 20: The decomposition of the flapwise root bending moment.**

A notable difference between Table 7 and Table 8 is the phase corresponding to the critical speed. Almost all the phase differences are  $180^\circ$ , which is completely different from the phenomenon (almost identical phase) shown in Tables 5 and 6. As we all know, the 4/rev rotor rolling or pitching moment comes from the 3/rev and 5/rev flapwise root bending moment, as show in Figure 20. Usually the 3/rev harmonic can be much larger than the 5/rev harmonic, usually maybe one order of magnitude higher. It means that the major or most part of the 4/rev moment originates from the 3/rev flapwise root bending moment. Naturally, the reduction of the 3/rev flapwise root bending moment can simultaneously reduce the 4/rev rolling and pitching moments, which is in accordance with the phenomenon shown in Tables 5 and 6. However, the phenomenon for the 5/rev DEC is completely different.

The 3/rev flapwise root bending moment can be assumed to be  $A_3 \sin(3\psi + \phi_3)$ .  $A_3$  is the amplitude, and  $\phi_3$  is the phase of the moment. The corresponding rotor rolling and pitching moments from the 3/rev moment are

$$A_3 \sin(3\psi + \phi_3) \sin \psi = -\frac{A_3}{2} [\cos(4\psi + \phi_3) - \cos(2\psi + \phi_3)]$$

(11)

and

$$A_3 \sin(3\psi + \phi_3) \cos \psi = \frac{A_3}{2} [\sin(4\psi + \phi_3) + \sin(2\psi + \phi_3)] \quad (12)$$

The 5/rev root bending moment generated by the 5/rev DEC is assumed to be  $A_5 \sin(5\psi + \phi_5)$ . Similarly, the corresponding rotor rolling and pitching moments from the 5/rev **DEC** are

$$A_5 \sin(5\psi + \phi_5) \sin \psi = -\frac{A_5}{2} [\cos(6\psi + \phi_5) - \cos(4\psi + \phi_5)] \quad (13)$$

and

$$A_5 \sin(5\psi + \phi_5) \cos \psi = \frac{A_5}{2} [\sin(6\psi + \phi_5) + \sin(4\psi + \phi_5)] \quad (14)$$

To just counteract the 4/rev rotor rolling moment, the target 4/rev component originating from the 3/rev plus the control component from the 5/rev should equal zero, which is

$$-\frac{A_3}{2} \cos(4\psi + \phi_3) + \frac{A_5}{2} \cos(4\psi + \phi_5) = 0 \quad (15)$$

To make the formula exists,  $A_3 = A_5$ , and

$$\cos(4\psi + \phi_3) - \cos(4\psi + \phi_5) = 0 \Rightarrow -2 \sin \frac{8\psi + \phi_3 + \phi_5}{2} \sin \frac{\phi_3 - \phi_5}{2} = 0 \quad (16)$$

which means,

$$\sin \frac{\phi_3 - \phi_5}{2} = 0 \quad (17)$$

Similarly, to obtain the maximum 4/rev rotor pitching moment reduction, we can derive



$$\cos \frac{\phi_3 - \phi_5}{2} = 0 \quad (18)$$

It is obvious that it is impossible to make the Equations (17) and (18) come into existence simultaneously. Using the 5/rev DEC to reduce the 4/rev rotor rolling moment may increase the 4/rev rotor pitching moment. For the 4/rev target load originating from the 3/rev flapwise root bending moment with a phase of  $\phi_3$ , the best phase of  $\phi_5^r$  for the 4/rev rolling moment reduction and the best phase of  $\phi_5^p$  for the 4/rev pitching moment reduction have the relation

$$\left| \frac{\phi_3 - \phi_5^r}{2} - \frac{\phi_3 - \phi_5^p}{2} \right| = \frac{\pi}{2} \quad (19)$$

which means

$$|\phi_5^r - \phi_5^p| = \pi \quad (20)$$

The phase **difference** corresponding to the maximum moment reduction is  $180^\circ$  (twice of  $90^\circ$ ). That **is** the reason why the phase difference shown in Tables 7 and 8 is  $180^\circ$ .

#### IV. Conclusion

Dynamically Extendable Chord (DEC) is utilized here to control the loads of helicopter rotors. A helicopter model is used to explore this concept in controlling the 4/rev vertical rotor hub force, 2/rev and 3/rev blade flapwise root bending moments, and 4/rev rotor rolling and pitching moments, for a four bladed rotor. Parametric analyses are conducted to enhance the potential of chord extension in controlling these harmonic loads. The analyses yielded the following conclusions:

1) For the control of the 4/rev vertical hub force, it is not beneficial to actuate the **DEC** at hover and low speed flight. At medium to high speed flight, the DEC, with a width of 10%R and a chord extension of 10%c, exhibits great potential in reducing the force. At a higher speed, the performance degrades due to the inability of the DEC to generate enough reacting force. The magnitude of the dynamic chord should be optimized according to the flight state.

- 2) For the 4/rev vertical hub force, the DEC at 40%-70%R can achieve the best performance. The maximum force reduction can be very close to 90% or larger.
- 3) For the 4/rev vertical hub force, the performance of the **DEC** can be enhanced by increasing the magnitude or width of the dynamic chord.
- 4) For **the** 4/rev vertical hub force, the take-off weight has substantially small effect on the performance of the 4/rev **DEC**, which is due to the simultaneous change of the lift acting on the dynamic chord.
- 5) The effect of the 4/rev **DEC** on the 8/rev vertical hub force is insignificant due to the much smaller amplitude of the higher harmonic force.
- 6) The **DEC** is not suitable for controlling the 2/rev blade flapwise root bending moment.
- 7) The **DEC** has great potential in reducing the 3/rev blade flapwise root bending moment. At a speed of 280km/h, the 3/rev moment can be reduced by 89.2% with a chord width of 20%R and a chord extension of 15%c.
- 8) The 3/rev **DEC** can be used to simultaneously reduce the 4/rev rotor rolling and pitching moments. The effectiveness is similar as the control of the 3/rev flapwise root bending moment.
- 9) The 5/rev **DEC** can be used to reduce the 4/rev rotor rolling or pitching moment. The effectiveness degrades significantly compared with the 3/rev dynamic chord. For the control of the 4/rev target load originating from the 3/rev flapwise root bending moment, the phase difference for the maximum rotor rolling and pitching moment reduction is 180° for the 5/rev dynamic chord.
- 10) For the reduction of the 2/rev and 3/rev flapwise root bending moments, the 4/rev vertical hub force, or the 4/rev rotor rolling and pitching moments, the best deployment place locates at the middle to outboard part, which can generate more lift than near the blade root or tip.

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